

investing in renewable energy alternatives, thereby stopping the flow of hundreds of billions of American dollars to irresponsible regimes. It includes strategies to strengthen international intelligence and law enforcement operations to bring individuals involved in violent acts to justice, while respecting human and civil rights. And it supports civil organizations and programs in the developing world because they play a critically important role in preventing or resolving conflicts.

I want to thank the cosponsors of H. Res. 363, Chairman JOHN CONYERS, Chairman ED MARKEY, Congresswomen BARBARA LEE and MAXINE WATERS, co-founders of the Out of Iraq Caucus, and Congresswoman GWEN MOORE, a member of the Out of Iraq Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, the Smart Security Platform For the 21st Century is ambitious, wide-ranging and tough. It uses the many national security tools that we have. It would make us safer here at home. It would cost less than what we are spending now on national security. And it isn't "soft" power, Mr. Speaker. It is real power. It is smart power. It is the kind of power we need to make America and the world more secure for ourselves and for our children.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S REQUEST FOR PRAYERS AT THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, on July 28, 1787, there was a real problem with the Constitutional Convention. They couldn't reach agreement on a Constitution. So Benjamin Franklin stood up in Constitution Hall and he said this. Let me read what was going on. I want to draw you a picture first.

The Constitutional Convention was on the verge of breaking apart completely over the issue of representation, a stalemate created by the concern of smaller States that they would be overpowered by the larger States, and the concern of larger States that smaller States would be given representation out of proportion to their relative size.

Tempers were short, and the ship of state seemed headed for the rocks before its maiden voyage had barely begun, when Benjamin Franklin rose and said these immortal words:

"In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to dis-

tinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding?

"In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for Divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in a struggle must have observed instances of superintending Providence in our favor.

"To that kind Providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine that we no longer need his assistance?"

And this is the part that I think every American remembers, when he said, "I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"

Tomorrow is National Prayer Day. And I hope that everybody in this country during these perilous times with our economy and the problems around the world will join together, regardless of their faith, and pray that we solve these problems and that there is peace and prosperity in America and around the world. The President of the United States, President Obama, will be signing a proclamation tomorrow observing National Prayer Day. And we appreciate that he is going to do this. And if he has time tomorrow, I hope the President will manifest his support for this great day by showing publicly his support by praying with a number of his members at the White House. I think it would be a great example.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

OBSERVING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Public Service Recognition Week. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to recognize the contributions that so many who have gone into public service make. Whether it be government service or whether it be volunteering for nonprofits, serving in the Service Corps, working for a 501(c)(3) organization, there are so many ways that people across this country can commit themselves to

public service. And it is important that we take a few moments out of the hectic demands of our day and our year to recognize the people that make these contributions.

I had a unique opportunity before I came to Congress to serve in the public sector and the private sector at the same time. I worked as a lawyer representing health care providers in my private sector position. But I also had the chance for 8 years to work with the State Department of Education in Maryland. And I did this simultaneously. So every day, I had the opportunity to go between the private sector and the public sector and to come to understand the perceptions and perspectives that each has of the other.

One of the things I was glad to be able to report to my colleagues in the private sector was that I had come to see the dedication, the hard work, the experience and the know-how, and just the pure smarts of people that serve in the public sector, who commit themselves to public service. It was a true inspiration for me to see that day in and day out. Then I came here to the Congress and had the opportunity in the first couple of years to serve on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee and on the subcommittee that deals with the Federal workforce. So every time we had a hearing, we would have panels of witnesses, of people, yes, the higher-up folks in these Federal agencies, but often the rank-and-file, who could testify as to what they were doing, their commitment and their dedication. And I want to salute the members of the Federal workforce for what they do day in and day out.

We couldn't be living in a more important time, a more exciting time, when it comes to public service. And President Obama has issued a call for public service, and people are responding to that across the country. The most immediate opportunity that we have seen was with the passage last week of a new Service Corps bill, Serve America. Senator KENNEDY on the Senate side was very involved with this, GEORGE MILLER here in the House and many others. It upgrades the capacity of AmeriCorps and other Service Corps programs, increases the number of opportunities that are going to exist, and it creates new dedicated Service Corps programs. So on this week of recognizing public service, we ought to salute Members of this House and Members of the Senate and the President of the United States for putting that bill into place and for providing those opportunities.

It is so critical right now to encourage the next generation to come into public service. And there are many ways that we can do this. One is to talk about the very good benefits and opportunities that exist, particularly in the Federal workforce. And I tell that story every day to try to encourage people to make that decision. Secondly, we have strengthened the loan

forgiveness opportunities that are available to people. I was pleased to be able to author, in the last session, the Education for Public Service Act, which now says that if you commit 10 years to public service, defined as government service or nonprofit service, during that 10-year period, you get reduced monthly payments on your Federal loans or federally guaranteed loan, and at the end of 10 years of public service, you get whatever is still owed forgiven. What a tremendous opportunity for people who want to go into public service and want to stay in public service. So that is another thing we can do to bring people in. A third thing is to increase flexibility in the workplace. I'm glad to have worked with many in the House to lead an effort on promoting telework within our Federal agencies to signal to people that we are willing to be flexible and work with those who are looking for these kinds of kind of job opportunities. That is another way to pull people in.

But the most important way is to emphasize the cutting-edge opportunities that exist in public service. I went to the Partnership For Public Service luncheon today, and the people they saluted and gave awards to, including Tim Evans from my district, from Owings Mills in Maryland, who works at the Social Security Administration and has helped to upgrade the capacity of the Web site that serves beneficiaries, these are people who are on the cutting edge and providing cutting-edge services. And they are an example of the innovation that you can bring into the public service workplace. And so I want to salute all of those people that make that contribution every day and celebrate with others in this Chamber Public Service Recognition Week.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING CHRIS ECONOMAKI AND THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF "NATIONAL SPEED SPORT NEWS"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to take a few moments today to recognize the 75th anniversary of "National Speed Sport News" and the man whose commitment to auto racing, journalism and broadcasting has not only kept this publication alive and thriving throughout all these years, but has kept racing fans glued to their seats during some of the biggest moments in motorsports history, Chris Economaki.

Born October 15, 1920, in Brooklyn, New York, Chris was the son of a very successful businessman whose family lived a very good life until the unfortunate crash of 1929, when they lost everything and were forced to move into his grandparents' home in New Jersey. As a kid he could hear the roar of the race car engines from a nearby track, and he often found himself sneaking in under the fence to watch the races.

At the age of 14, Chris started selling copies of "National Speed Sport News" on weekends to fans during races, and he wrote a regular column while he was still in high school. But he quickly noticed that the success of his paper depended largely on the event's announcer. So he started announcing at races and found that he had a real talent for that. Suddenly, Chris began getting requests to announce from all over and to deliver the commentary at the races. He became one of the most competent and respected announcers in the history of motorsports. Chris was later made editor and publisher of the paper he sold and wrote for as a kid.

On July 4, 1961, Chris did his first live telecast on ABC's "Wide World of Sports" for their Firecracker 250 at the new Daytona International Speedway. Since then he has announced for CBS, ESPN and the Indianapolis 500 to name just a few.

In 1993, Chris Economaki was inducted into the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame. In 1994, he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America.

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He received both the NASCAR Award of Excellence and the NASCAR Lifetime Achievement Award, and he has come to be known as the dean of American motorsports.

Truly, Chris is one of the most influential journalists in the history of motorsports, and is the greatest ambassador for motorsports that has ever lived. His level of institutional knowledge is unparalleled. Not only is Chris most knowledgeable, he imparts or articulates his vast knowledge better than anyone else in the business ever has. And he does it with integrity, he does it with kindness, he does it with poise, he does it with aplomb, is a word that he has often used to describe people with a lot of class, and he has it.

In Florida, we recognize the day of the Daytona 500 every single year as Chris Economaki Day since the governor first declared it in 2005.

As a stock car racing fan and a participant, it is a great privilege to stand here and offer this salute to Chris Economaki, a man so many admire and who has done so much for a sport that has pushed the envelope in the advancement of automotive technology, brought families and friends together on weekends, and kept the American competitive spirit alive for decades, Chris Economaki.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TWO-STATE SOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the events in the Middle East, particularly the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

We all know what the end game should be: two states, two states living side by side in peace and security, a Palestinian Arab state and an Israeli Jewish state. But there is a problem. There is a problem because the Palestinians have a divided government. And in the West Bank, Mahmoud Abbas and his party runs the government. But in Gaza, the government is run by the terrorist group Hamas.

Hamas believes that terrorism will get them where they want to be. Hamas refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist. Now we are apparently going to appropriate \$900 million in funding for the West Bank in Gaza. I am glad that Secretary of State Clinton has confirmed that the United States will not provide funds to any Palestinian government that includes Hamas members who do not accept the three internationally backed principles of recognizing Israel's right to exist, number one; renouncing terrorism, number two; and committing to all of the agreements, previous agreements, signed by Palestinian leadership, number three.

Our chairwoman of the Foreign Ops Subcommittee, Congresswoman LOWEY, has said that in the future potential coalition government between Gaza and the West Bank, that any Hamas ministers would have to pledge that they support those three internationally recognized principles. But until that happens, Mr. Speaker, I have serious problems with the \$300 million we are apparently appropriating for Gaza.

The war in Gaza, and it is very interesting that Palestinians in Gaza talk about occupation, but there is no Israeli occupation in Gaza. Israel left Gaza several years ago without any preconditions. And instead of the Palestinians taking the land that Israel left and building on it and helping their people, they have decided instead to turn it into a terrorist camp raining rockets upon rockets in Israel, particularly upon the town of Sderot in the south of Israel. I have been there. Israel finally retaliated, and that is how the Gaza war began again.

There has been some criticism of Israel for retaliating. But imagine if we in the United States had terrorists launching missiles at us on U.S. territory from either Mexico or Canada, and then went across the border. Would we just sit there and take it? Israel took it